6. *Facility to ED employees Attending All India conference of the unions as delegates.*—It has been decided that the cost of substitute employed in place of an ED employee who is elected as delegate to attend the All India Conferences of the Unions representing ED Employees will be borne by the Department. This will be subject to the condition that the cost of substitute will be limited to 2 ED delegates from each circle.

Upgradation of Branch Office into Extra Departmental Sub-office

1604. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to upgrade the Branch Office into Extra Departmental Sub Office where the workload of Branch Office exceeds 80 points;

(b) if not, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) in what manner Government would compensate the Branch Post Master for performing duty beyond 80 points in a month?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The upgrading of an extra-departmental branch office (EDBO) as an extra-departmental sub office (EDSO) is governed by a separate standard which prescribes a minimum workload of 4 hours for the EDBO proposed to be upgraded. The workload is computed as per Marathe Time Test which is quite different from the 'points' system adopted for remuneration of branch postmasters.

(c) In such cases upgrading of the EDBO either as an EDSO or a departmental sub office (DSO) is considered subject to standards fixed for the respective category of offices being fulfilled. If not feasible, opening of another branch office in the area, subject to fulfilment of norms, can also be considered.

Recruitment of E. D. Employees

1605. SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of Extra Departmental employees category-wise recruited during the last three years ending the 30th June, 1989; and

(b) what is the number of pensioners and school teachers, working as Extra Departmental employees as on 30th June 1989?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Meetings with the Bhartiya Postal Employees Federation

1606. SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether periodical meetings at All India level are being held with the Bhartiya Postal Employees Federation; and

(b) if so, the number of meetings held so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Retrenchment of Extra Departmental Employees

1607. SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of Extra Departmental employees retrenched during the period from January, 1986 to June, 1989;

(b) how many of them have been taken back on duty so far; and

(c) what steps have been taken to ensure security of job to Extra Departmental employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Emoluments of Branch Post Master and Extra Departmental Agents

1608. SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what emoluments are being paid to a Branch Post Master for a workload of less than two hours of duty;

(b) in what manner they compare with the emoluments paid to Extra Departmental Agents for a similar workload of less than 2 hours;

(c) whether the emoluments of Extra Departmental Branch Post Masters have been fixed at a monthly rate of Rs. 197/- for one hour per day as recommended by the Extra Departmental Committee;

(d) if so, whether the same rates, as recommended by the Extra Departmental Committee, have also been made applicable to the Extra Departmental Employees other than Branch Post Masters; and

(e) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) The extra Departmental Branch Post Masters are paid a basic allowance on the basis of workload calculated on Point System. This basic allowance ranges between a minimum and a maximum of Rs. 275/- and Rs. 440/- per month depending upon the workload. In addition, they are paid Dearness Allowance, Office Maintenance Allowance, Delivery and Conveyance Allowance, wherever applicable.

(b) The basic allowance of other Extra Departmental Agents is fixed on the basis of workload calculated according to the norms applicable to corresponding categories of departmental employees. The basic allowance for less than 2 hours of workload in respect of other Extra Departmental Agents (other than E.D.S.P. Ms) is Rs. 240/- per month. In addition they get Dearness Allowance and Cycle Allowance, wherever applicable.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Keeping in view the overall interest of Extra-departmental employees, the Government have not accepted be fixation of allowances on hourly wages basis as recommended by he Extra Departmental Committee.

Defence Aircrafts and Helicopters at the Disposal of VIPs

1609. SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA:
SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of defence aircrafts and helicopters which have been